

FOCUS ON THE ARTS

CULTURAL ARTS

FALL 2006

Four Pulitzer Prize Winners En Route to F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference on Oct. 14

It is no secret that the annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference attracts an impressive list of talent to Rockville, and this year is no different.

Highlighting the conference on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Rockville Campus of Montgomery College are three Pulitzer Prize-winning presenters, a double Emmy Award winner, and yet another Pulitzer Prize-winning honoree. Countless accolades shower the biographies of each contributor to this year's Conference.

Included in the list are the 2006 F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award recipient Jane Smiley, and presenters Henry Allen, A. Scott Berg and Michael Dirda. Each is a Pulitzer Prize winner.

Smiley, in 1992, won a Pulitzer for her work, *A Thousand Acres*. Additionally, she has written numerous works of fiction and non-fiction books, as well as essays for *Vogue*, *The New Yorker* and *Harper's*. At the conference there will be a screening of the movie version of *A Thousand Acres* and remarks by Smiley at the conclusion of the film.



Jane Smiley will be one of four Pulitzer Prize winners featured at the 11th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference on Oct. 14.

Allen, Berg and Dirda will participate on a panel discussion of "The Cultural

Explosion of the 1920s: Its Impact On Us Today."

Allen, a longtime staff writer and editor at *The Washington Post*, received a Pulitzer in 2000 for criticism. He is the author of *What It Felt Like – Living in the American Century*, an evocation of the various zeitgeists of the 20th century, as well as novels, collections, periodicals and poetry.

Berg in 1998 received a Pulitzer for his work *Lindbergh*, a widely acclaimed biography of the larger-than-life aviator Charles Lindbergh. In an interview with *Online NewsHour*, Berg described the life of Lindbergh as "one of the great untold stories of the 20th Century."

Berg is the author of several popular biographies, including *Kate Remembered*, about the life of Katharine Hepburn. He is currently working on a biography on Woodrow Wilson.

Dirda, a staff writer for *The Washington Post Bookworld*, is one of America's foremost critics. He received a Pulitzer in 1993 for criticism and has written memoirs and essays. His latest work is *Book by Book: Notes on Reading and Life*, where Dirda reflected on his life of reading and contends that adults may read for pleasure, but also read to learn how to live.

For more information on the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, see page 2 of *Focus on the Arts*. ■

Previous Awardees for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature

1996:	William Styron
1997:	John Barth
1998:	Joyce Carol Oates
1999:	E.L. Doctorow
2000:	Norman Mailer
2001:	Ernest J. Gaines
2002:	John Updike
2003:	Edward Albee
2004:	Grace Paley
2005:	Pat Conroy

Coming to Rockville on Oct. 6



From Rockville to Vegas ... to Rockville – Nationally known impersonator Billy Finch returns home to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on Oct. 6. See page 3 of *Focus on the Arts* for more.

Total Facelift Performed at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Roomier Seats, Improved Lighting Help Provide A Whole New Look

Much-anticipated upgrades to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre have been completed and there may be a few more coming soon as the City of Rockville aims to create one of the premiere community theaters in the Washington metropolitan region.

Theater goes to Rockville Civic Center Park will now enjoy brand new seats with more leg room, improved theater lighting and many more updates as the theater opens its fall schedule.

"What an improvement," said Kathleen Moran, the Civic Center supervisor. "The seats are so much more comfortable, giving the overall theater experience a much-deserved boost. We are all very excited about the upgrades."

Rockville closed the theater for three weeks over the summer to complete the upgrades, which also included fresh paint and new carpeting. The new seating plan allows for five more inches of leg room and staggered seats, giving patrons an uninterrupted view of the stage. To compensate for the additional leg room, the plan called for fewer seats, bringing the house capacity to about 450 seats, down from 481 seats plus additional spaces for wheelchair seating.

With the renovations, the house lighting is five times brighter, giving the audience a chance to read handbills better and making the theater an even more inviting venue for business groups that wish to rent it for their special events and presentations. The



Photo Credit: Jacqueline Christa

An updated, upgraded F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is an immediate hit with patrons, said Kathleen Moran, the Rockville Civic Center Park supervisor, who polled patrons at a recent performance. The theater recently received new seats and other upgrades, scoring high on the comfort scale.

changes have been in the planning stages for considerable time, with former Civic Center Park supervisor Lew Dronenburg and theatre production specialist Joe Palamara making major contributions.

Kim Haug, the Theatre/Civic Center supervisor, hinted to even more enhancements in the future.

"We are working on a plan to continue to bring more upgrades to our appearance and quality of presentation within the theater," Haug said. "We expect in the next three months to add an acoustic treatment

and new main stage curtains, as well as sound and lighting upgrades for better capabilities in presenting performances."

Patrons of Rockville Little Theatre's performance of "The Baby Dance" on Sept. 8, were the first to enjoy the upgrades. Moran said she was met with overwhelmingly positive feedback as she inquired about the theater's new feel.

"All raved about the comfort and extra leg room," Moran said.

Rockville Reports will keep readers updated on all future theater enhancements. ■

City 'Calls' for Artists for Three Public Art Projects

Two themed public art projects for Rockville Town Square and a public art project for the future Thomas Farm Community Center are in the works. In late October, the City will distribute a "call for entries" to local, regional and national artists to compete to be selected to create the works.

The themed projects for Rockville Town Square are "Things Left Behind" along Gibbs Street and "William Gibbs" in the Town Center Plaza.

"Things Left Behind" will have small elements that could be "discovered" by pedestrians. These whimsical elements would be made in bronze or other another durable material and dispersed along Gibbs Street, including installed along park benches, on the grillwork around the trees, on the planters and on other streetscape.

The "William Gibbs" project will honor the life and work of William Gibbs, a civil rights activist who lived in Rockville. This work will depict his history, accomplishments, and the historical theme of the era in which Gibbs lived.

The Thomas Farm Community Center art project, like art at all of Rockville's community centers, will serve to liven the area.

The "Call for Entries," including submission requirements, budget, calendar and application deadline, will be posted on the City's Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov as well as available at City's facilities and Montgomery County Public Libraries. ■

7:45 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Coffee and Registration at Montgomery College Theatre Arts Building Foyer
(Registration and Information Desk will be open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.)

8:45 - 9 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

John Moser, Chairman of F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference Committee
Carolyn Terry, Dean for Humanities and Social Services, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus

9 - 10:15 a.m.

"Telling Lives: Writing Biography"

A. Scott Berg, Pulitzer Prize winning biographer

9 - 11:45 a.m.

Morning Writing Workshops

- Kenneth Carroll, Poetry Workshop leader
- Patricia Elam, Fiction Workshop leader
- Marcia Talley, Mystery Workshop leader
- Katharine Davis, Midlife Writing/Late Bloomers Workshop leader

10:20 - 11:40 a.m.

"The Cultural Explosion of the 1920's: Its Impact On Us Today"

Henry Allen, Pulitzer Prize Winner
A. Scott Berg, Pulitzer Prize Winner
Michael Dirda, Pulitzer Prize Winner

11:40 a.m. Lunch

12:30 - 1 p.m.

Excerpts from Writings of Fitzgerald

Richard Davison, Professor (Emeritus) of English, University of Delaware

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Book signings by all Workshop Leaders

1 - 2:15 p.m.

Visit to Fitzgerald's Haunts in Rockville

Eileen McGuckian, Executive Director, Peerless Rockville Preservation, Ltd.
Suzanne Fisher, Past-President, Peerless Rockville Preservation, Ltd.

2:15 - 5 p.m.

Afternoon Writing Workshops

- Richard Peabody, Fiction Workshop leader
- Michael Olmert, Screenwriting Workshop leader
- Ellen Braaf, Children's Literature Workshop leader
- C.M. Mayo, Travel Writing Workshop leader
- Katharine Davis, Midlife Writing/Late Bloomers Workshop leader



2006 Award Honoree: Jane Smiley has a B.A. from Vassar College and got her M.F.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. She is the author of, among other works of fiction, *The Age of Grief*, *The Greenlanders*, *Ordinary Love and Goodwill*, *Moo and Good Faith* as well as *A Thousand Acres*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992. Furthermore, she has written essays for *Vogue*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The Nation* and many other publications. She also has authored a nonfiction book, *A Year at the Races*, as well as a biography of Charles Dickens. She has three children – one son and two daughters – and, with several of her horses, resides in Northern California.

Panelists and Presenters:



Henry Allen, a longtime staff writer and editor at *The Washington Post*, is the author of *What It Felt Like – Living in the American Century*, an evocation of the various zeitgeists of the 20th century; *Going Too Far Enough*, a collection of his work from *The Washington Post*; *Fool's Mercy*, a novel; and *The Museum of Lost Air*, a chapbook of poetry. He has written for the *New York Review of Books*, *The New Yorker*, the *Paris Review* and *Smithsonian*, among other periodicals. He is a Marine veteran of Vietnam and a graduate of Hamilton College. In 2000, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for criticism.



A. Scott Berg, a 1971 graduate of Princeton University, is the author of four bestselling biographies, *Max Perkins: Editor of Genius*, based on his senior thesis, was published in 1978 and received the National Book Award; with the aid of a Guggenheim Fellowship, he published *Goldwyn: A Biography* in 1983; and in 1998 he published *Lindbergh*, for which he received the Pulitzer Prize. For 20 years, Berg was a friend and confidant of Katharine Hepburn; and upon her death in 2003, he published a biographical memoir, *Kate Remembered*, which became the No. 1 New York Times bestseller for most of that summer. He is currently writing a biography of Woodrow Wilson.



Richard Allan Davison is a Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Delaware. He earned his B.A. at Middlebury College, M.A. at the University of Rochester, and a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. Davison has published more than 70 articles

F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2006



F. Scott Fitzgerald, author of *The Great Gatsby*, *Tender is the Night* and other classics and short stories, lived and wrote some of his greatest works in Maryland. He spent childhood summers with relatives in the Rockville area. He, his wife Zelda and their daughter, Scottie, are buried at historic Saint Mary's Church Cemetery in Rockville.

Celebrating the 110th birthday of the great American author and the art of writing, the **11th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference** offers the unique opportunity for aspiring writers to have their work critiqued by accomplished writers in the specialty field of their choice, be it fiction, poetry, mystery, screenwriting, creative non-fiction or children's literature. The conference comes to a close with the awarding of the prestigious **11th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature to Jane Smiley**.

The 2006 F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference is organized by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. The conference committee thanks its supporters, whose generous contributions of services, facilities, staff and/or funds make the conference possible: *Conference Sponsors*: City of Rockville, Montgomery College, The JBG Companies, *Gazette Newspapers*, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd., Woodfin Suites Hotel, F. Scott Fitzgerald Society. *Short Story Contests Sponsor*: Rockville Cultural Arts Commission

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. invites you to become a member. The nonprofit organization was founded in 1998 to promote appreciation of the literary arts and to support an annual conference recognizing the achievements of major American writers. Membership levels (with benefits) are: \$15 Student; \$20 Senior; \$25 Individual; \$40 Family; \$100-249 FSF Friend; \$250-499 FSF Benefactor; \$500-999 FSF Patron; \$1,000-above FSF Sponsor; \$2,500-above FSF Corporate Sponsor.

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Registration and fees must be received no later than **FRIDAY, SEPT. 29**, to receive early registration discount. **Writing Workshop Manuscript Requirements:** Writing Workshops space is limited. Advance registration and submission of manuscripts is **Required** to have work critiqued. **Applications, manuscripts and applicable fees must be received no later than Sept. 29.** Workshop space will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. **Late Registration:** Mail, email or fax registrations received after Monday, Oct. 9, will not be processed but will be treated as registrations on the morning of the conference. Please check-in at the registration table as applicable. **Manuscript Requirements:** See manuscript guidelines as noted in the biographical information for the applicable workshop leader. **Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities:** Montgomery College is handicapped accessible. **Book Exhibits and Sales:** A selection of new and used books by Fitzgerald – as well as books by all conference panelists, presenters and award-winners – will be available for purchase at book sellers' exhibits in the Theatre Arts Building. **Cancellation Policy:** Cancellation refund requests must be received no later than Sept. 28; a **\$20 PROCESSING FEE** will be charged for all cancellations. For more information about the conference, phone **301-309-9461**. **Overnight Accommodations:** Provided by the Woodfin Suite Hotel in Rockville at a discounted rate of \$89/ per night (plus tax), with proof of Conference registration. For more information, contact 1-888-433-9407 or www.woodfinsuitehotels.com. Direct dial 301-590-9880.

Call 301-309-9461 for a brochure, or visit www.peerlessrockville.org/fsf for more information.

on such figures as Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Steinbeck, Robt. Penn Warren, Shakespeare and Albee. He has published three books on Frank, Charles and Kathleen Norris and two books on theatre. He is co-editing a book, *The Art of the American Musical: Conversations with the Performers*, and is working on a book on New York theatre in 1958.



Michael Dirda, Pulitzer-Prize winning critic and longtime staff writer for *The Washington Post Book World*, is one of America's preeminent critics and arguably one of its most voracious readers. Dirda received the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for criticism. He is the author of the memoir *An Open Book* and of two collections of essays, *Readings and Bound to Please*. In his latest work, *Book by Book: Notes on Reading and Life*, Dirda reflects on his life of reading and shows that as adults we may read for pleasure, but we also read to learn how to live.



Suzanne Fisher is health science administrator at the Center for Scientific Review of the National Institute of Health and past president of Peerless Rockville. **Eileen McGuckian** is a co-founder and executive director of Peerless Rockville. She co-authored *F. Scott Fitzgerald's Rockville: A Guide to Rockville, Maryland in the 1920's and Rockville: Portrait of a City*.



Judy Hruz is editor of *The Rockville Gazette* and co-author of *Treason in the White House*, a political thriller. She worked at the *York Dispatch* in York, Pa., for 10 years before joining *The Gazette* in 1988. She is a regular panelist and frequent moderator on *The Gazette's* cable television public affairs program, *Gazette Newsmakers*.



Children's Literature Workshop Leader: Ellen Braaf is a freelance writer and educator. She has published works of juvenile and adult fiction, nonfiction and humor. A frequent contributor and columnist for ASK (Arts and Sciences for Kids), she serves as Mid-Atlantic regional advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and as co-chair of Northern Virginia Writers. She teaches at The Writer's Center in Bethesda, Md. *Ms. Braaf does not request the submission of manuscripts.*

Fiction Workshop Leaders:



Patricia Elam is a novelist and freelance writer whose work has been published in *The Washington Post*, *Essence Magazine*, *Newsday* and anthologies. Her novel, *Breathing Room*, was a finalist for the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. Elam currently chairs the creative writing department at Duke Ellington School for the Arts. *Ms. Elam will accept manuscripts for this workshop with pre-registration (a maximum of 10 typed pages, double-spaced in standard font). Participants should bring 11 copies of their submitted work to share with their colleagues on the day of the conference.*



Richard Peabody is the founder and co-editor of *Gargoyle Magazine* and editor (or co-editor) of 14 anthologies. He is the author of the novella *Sugar Mountain*, two short story collections and six poetry collections including *Last of the Red Hot Magnets* and *I'm in Love with the Morton Salt Girl*. He is currently working on *Kiss the Sky: Fiction & Poetry Starring Jimi Hendrix* (forthcoming 2007). Peabody holds a B.A. from the University of Maryland and an M.A. in Literature from American University. *Mr. Peabody will accept manuscripts for this workshop with pre-registration (a maximum of 10 typed pages, double-spaced in standard font). Participants should bring 11 copies of their submitted work to share with their colleagues on the day of the conference.*



Midlife Writing/Late Bloomers Workshop Leader: Katharine Davis is the author of *Capturing Paris*, published by St. Martin's Griffin in May, 2006. After growing up in Europe, she graduated from Wheaton College and completed an M.A. in French literature from SUNY Albany. She taught French for many years, worked at the National Gallery of Art and wrote a cooking column for a newspaper in Maine. An associate fiction editor for the *Potomac Review*, she lives in Alexandria, Va., and is working on a second novel. *Ms. Davis does not request the submission of manuscripts.*



Mystery Workshop Leader: Marcia Talley is the Agatha and Anthony Award-winning author of *Through the Darkness*. Previous titles in the Hannah Ives mystery series include *Sing It to Her Bones*, *Unbreathed Memories*, *Occasion of Revenge*, *In*

2:15 - 4:15 p.m.

"A Thousand Acres"

A screening and remarks by Jane Smiley

4:15 - 5 p.m.

"New and Aspiring Writers: Their Problems and Successes – How to Get Published"

Judy Hruz, novelist and editor, *Gazette Newspapers*

5 - 6:15 p.m.

Reception and Book Signing

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Awards Ceremony, Readings and Book Signing

Opening Remarks by Dr. Judy Ackerman, Vice President and Provost, Montgomery College
Honorable Larry Giammo, Mayor, City of Rockville

- *Presentation of 9th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald H.S. Short Story Contest Winner*
Judge: Sam Blate
Previous Winners: Kari Ginsburg, 1998; Carinne Prest, 1999; Rachel Gatwood, 2000; Meg Kochuba, 2001; Betsy Bangert, 2002; Xuancong Wen, 2003; Katherine H. Zhang, 2004; Elana Rodman, 2005

- *Presentation of 11th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Short Story Contest Winner*
Judge: Patricia Griffith

Previous Winners: Jeff Miner, 1996; Anna Olswanger, 1997; Jody Lannen Brady, 1998; Gretchen Comba, 1999; James Matthew, 2000; Bill Glase, 2001; Michael Langley, 2002; Larry Bevan, 2003; Anca Nemoianu, 2004; Cynthia Adams, 2005

- *Presentation of 11th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award*
The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award was established in 1996 to recognize outstanding achievement in American literature.
Previous winners: William Styron, 1996; John Barth, 1997; Joyce Carol Oates, 1998; E. I. Doctorow, 1999; Norman Mailer, 2000; Ernest J. Gaines, 2001; John Updike, 2002; Edward Albee, 2003; Grace Paley, 2004; Pat Conroy, 2005

2006 Recipient: Jane Smiley

Acceptance and reading by Ms. Smiley

Death's Shadow and *This Enemy Town*. She is author/editor of two star-studded collaborative serial novels, *Naked Came the Phoenix* and *I'd Kill for That*. Her prize-winning short stories appear in more than a dozen collections. *Ms. Talley will accept manuscripts for this workshop with pre-registration (a maximum of 10 typed pages, double-spaced in standard font). The submission should be the first 10 pages of a novel or short story. Participants do not need to bring copies on the day of the conference.*



Poetry Workshop Leader: Kenneth Carroll teaches literature at the Duke Ellington School for the Arts and is past president of the African American Writers Guild and a founding member of the African American Cultural Arts Center and the 8Rock Writers Collective. He is the author of a book of poetry, *So What: For The White Dude Who Said This Ain't Poetry*, and of two produced plays. His writing has appeared in *Black Literature Forum*, *African Commentary*, *Black Arts Bulletin*, *The Washington Post* and other publications. *Mr. Carroll does not request the submission of manuscripts.*



Screenwriting Workshop Leader: Michael Olmert is the author of four books, two plays, more than 80 TV documentaries and has won two primetime Emmys. His television work has involved writing and directing actors, including Sir John Gielgud, Richard Dreyfuss, Gabriel Byrne, Gary Sinise, Stockard Channing and Martin Sheen. Olmert holds a Ph.D. in medieval English literature and teaches English at the University of Maryland. *Mr. Olmert invites, but does not require, participants to bring one sample manuscript (a maximum of 10 typed pages, double-spaced in standard font) for review during the workshop. Extra copies (11) for workshop colleagues to read on the day of the conference are desirable, but not required.*



Travel Writing Workshop Leader: C.M. Mayo is the author of *Miraculous Air: Journey of a Thousand Miles through Baja California, The Other Mexico and Sky Over El Nido*, which won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. Her many other awards include three Lowell Thomas Awards for travel journalism. She divides her time between Mexico City and Washington, D.C., where she is on the faculty of the Writer's Center in Bethesda, Md. *Ms. Mayo does not request the submission of manuscripts.*

Impersonator Billy Finch Commands 'Respect'

Performer Is Rodney Dangerfield, Sinatra, Others
at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on Oct. 6

Unlike Rodney Dangerfield, this performer commands respect.

Montgomery County native Billy Finch, described as a "must have" entertainer, is one of the most popular impressionists/impersonators in the country. One of his hit shows boasts of a *Caddyshack* theme during golf tournaments, including PGA events, where he puts on a Rodney Dangerfield act like no other.

For his efforts, Finch has earned an RCA Rodney Dangerfield Look-A-Like/Sound-A-Like Award.

Finch and his wife, Carol, spend a great deal of time traveling around the country performing at corporate golf events, as well as regular shows in venues such as the Riviera in Las Vegas.

Come Friday, Oct. 6, at 8 p.m., the couple will have the opportunity to perform in front of family and friends as they kickoff their first show in Montgomery County at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville's Civic Center Park.



"We rarely do shows in our own backyard," said Billy Finch, who claims Rockville's own RedGate Golf Course as his home course. "It's a great thing to have family and friends come who haven't seen us perform in years. My parents are even coming down from Rhode Island to see it."

Tickets are still available for the "Musical Comedy Legends Show," where Finch will sing the songs of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, Johnny Cash and more. There may even be an appearance by "Minerva," played by Carol, who often performs with her husband.

Finch's performances are highly acclaimed, and include accolades from Arch Campbell of WRIC/NBC TV who described his singing and musical style of Frank Sinatra as, "right on the money." *The Washington Post* described Finch's show as "musical, hilarious and family-friendly."

Finch has performed at Wolf Trap, The



Not to be missed: Nationally-known Impersonator Billy Finch (above as Rodney Dangerfield) will bring his 'Musical Comedy Legends Show' to Rockville which includes such stars as Frank Sinatra (left) and Elvis Presley (below) when he entertains the audience at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on Oct. 6.

Kennedy Center and for three presidents at the White House, but the one-time resident of the Twinbrook area of Rockville said performing at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is just something a little more special.

"The Theatre is so nice," he said. "The staff is friendly, and they take so much pride in it. We are looking forward to performing there — especially with all the new upgrades."

Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$13 for students or seniors. Tickets are available by calling the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Box Office at 240-314-8690, or



by visiting www.ticketleap.com. For more information about the performance visit www.rockvillemd.gov, or Finch's site at www.billyfinch.com.

'Thank you, thank you very much.' ■



U.S. NAVY BAND'S CHAMBER ENSEMBLE COMES TO ROCKVILLE ...The U.S. Navy Band's Chamber Ensemble will perform at Glenview Mansion on Sunday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m. as part of the Sunday Afternoon Concert Series to celebrate the opening of the October exhibit at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

Four artists will present their work throughout the month, including Helen Corning ("Haiku Paintings," acrylic on canvas), Tory Cowles ("Food for the Eye," acrylic on canvas), Sandra L.H. Woodcock ("Black and White in Living Color," fiber arts) and Xiaosheng Bi (fine porcelain vessels).

There will be an opening reception from 1-4 p.m. on Oct. 1. On Thursday, Oct. 19, the artists will gather for a talk at Glenview Mansion at 7:30 p.m. All events are free. For more information, call 240-314-8682.

New Workshops Highlight FSF Literary Conference Oct. 14 Sessions Will Interest 'Late Bloomers,' Screenwriters, Travel Writers and Others

Two-time Emmy Award winner Michael Olmert plans on keeping his "Screenwriting" workshop simple during this year's F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Montgomery College.

Olmert, the author of four books, two plays and more than 80 TV documentaries, is a professor of English at the University of Maryland and said he is honored to be included in this year's conference lineup, which includes four Pulitzer Prize winners (see story on FOTA page 1) and a legacy of other award winning writers.

But for Olmert, who has worked with actors Richard Dreyfuss, Stockard Channing and Martin Sheen to name a few, the key to his workshop is simplicity.

"It's guaranteed to be fun," Olmert said. "We will look at movies and see what they [participants] like. The key to screenwriting is that it has to be as natural as possible. It's drama. That is what people want."

Olmert also will emphasize three main elements of screenwriting: Words, music and images.

"Screenwriting is never a speech or an essay," Olmert said.

Many times writers have a point of view to get across, but words alone do not cut it, Olmert said. To be effective, the work should be surprising and unpredictable in nature.

Olmert is one of the workshop leaders who will accept sample manuscripts from participants the day of the conference.

Also accepting manuscripts is "Mystery" workshop leader Marcia Talley, an Agatha and Anthony Award winning author. The Mystery workshop is new to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference this year and is

expected to be quite popular.

Also new to the Conference is Katharine Davis, who will lead the "Midlife Writing/Late Bloomers" workshop, and C.M. Mayo, who will lead a workshop on "Travel Writing."

For more information on workshops and presenters, see page 2 of *Focus on the Arts*. ■

**"It's guaranteed
to be fun."**

— Michael Olmert, two-time
Emmy award-winner

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ROCKVILLE ARTS HOTLINE 240-314-5006

Call for recorded information on contact numbers and general program information. Discover concerts, gallery exhibits, special events, theatre performances, musicals, dance productions, art classes and other arts offerings—all right here in Rockville!



The Rockville Concert Band will kickoff its fall 2006-07 indoor concert series on Sunday, Oct. 1, at 3 p.m. at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Above, the band performed at the 2006 Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Rockville Concert Band Welcomes New Talent

The Rockville Concert Band has a way of drawing dedicated musicians.

Take Eleanor Hetrick, who has been playing with the band since its inception in 1957. Hetrick, who plays the flute with the band directed by Dr. Vince Patterson, has seen many musicians come through the organization over the years. Some have been seasoned performers and others, novice musicians. But one theme has been consistent – their passion for the band.

This passion has led to the Rockville Concert Band gaining a reputation as one of the Washington area's premiere community bands for the past five decades.

"There is lots of talent out there," Hetrick said. "And you never know where people will come from. I'm currently playing with a woman who plays the piano and cello, but she was taken by the idea of playing with the band, so she went and picked up the flute. Now she has been playing with us for six months. And here I am, playing forever, so there you go. I call her my stand buddy Liz [Luck]."

Hetrick and her flute will take their place with the Concert Band on Sunday, Oct. 1, as it opens the fall season starting at 3 p.m. at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. The Rockville Swing Band will perform at 2 p.m. in the lobby.

Hetrick said it is a joy to welcome new members to the Band, especially since there is a lot of flexibility to excel in the organization.

"For the past 15 years we have been getting a lot of people who played in high school and college and now they just want to play again," Hetrick said. "And they are dedicated. Every Tuesday night they are there. We welcome them."

The Rockville Concert Band, which typically carries 75 volunteer members, is currently looking for new recruits. The band practices every Tuesday night and has a variety of performances throughout the year to include an indoor season at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and outdoor concerts

during the warmer months.

"If you can play well and if you play another instrument, you will certainly rise to the top," Hetrick said.

Patterson said that all band instruments are needed, especially percussion, French horn and saxophones. Experience with a high school and/or college band is preferred, and based on experience, an audition is typically not necessary. For their major performances, the Rockville Concert Band often programs a "theme" concert to focus on a particular composer, country or concept, such as "Music from Austria," "Marches of the World," "Springtime," "Halloween Treats!," "Sousa," or "Swing into Spring."

The band even welcomes those who just might have an undiscovered natural talent.

"George Pease played with the band for about 25 years," Hetrick said. "He didn't even pick up an instrument until he was in his 40s. And there he played the flute all those years. Another fellow was a former clarinet player and after retirement decided to pick it up again and began playing with us."

To schedule an interview, contact Patterson at 301-215-9299. ■

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

OCT. 1

Pre-concert by Rockville Swing Band, 2 p.m.*
Rockville Concert Band, 3 p.m. (Season Opener)

NOV. 19

Pre-concert by Heatherwood Harp Ensemble, 2 p.m.* "Music from Around the World" by Rockville Concert Band, 3 p.m.

DEC. 17

Pre-concert by Rockville Swing Band, 2 p.m.*
"Holiday Concert" by Rockville Concert Band, 3 p.m.

*Note: Limited seating on first-come, first-serve basis for pre-concerts in the lobby.

The Arts in Rockville: Fall Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

1-31 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: Xiaosheng Bi—porcelain vessels; Helen Corning—acrylic on canvas paintings; Tory Cowles—acrylic on canvas abstract paintings; Sandra L. H. Wock—fiber arts, fiber (wall art quilts). Opening reception: Oct. 1, 1-4 p.m. Artist talk: Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660. FREE.

1 Sunday Afternoon Concert Series U.S. Navy Band Chamber Ensembles. 2 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8682. FREE.

1 Rockville Concert Band Season Opener 3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8681. FREE, no tickets required.

6 Billy Finch "Musical Comedy Legend." 8 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$15 general admission; \$13 seniors and students.

7,8 Chu Shan Zhu Chinese Opera Institute. 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 7; 2 p.m. on Oct. 8. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$50 VIP, \$30 supporter, \$20 general.

13 Hometowne USA Barbershop Quartet. 8 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$15 reserved seating.

14 Connect the Dots presents Fundraiser Concert. 6 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$30-40 (portions tax-deductible).

15 Kalayani Dance School presents Classical Indian Dance. 4 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. FREE, no tickets required.

27,28 Rockville Musical Theatre: The Full Monty (Rated R). 8 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre 240-314-8690. *Unemployed steelworkers with a bold plan to make some quick cash.* Tickets: \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$12 students.

NOVEMBER

3,4,5,10,11,12

Rockville Musical Theatre: The Full Monty (Rated R). 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8690. *Unemployed steelworkers with a bold plan to make some quick cash.* Tickets: \$18 Adults; \$15 seniors; \$12 students.

5-28 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: John James—painting & installation; Bonnie Lee Holland—mixed media; James Kessler—hydrocal, rubber, sculpture. Opening reception: Nov. 5, 1-4 p.m. Artist talk: Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660. FREE.

5 Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: U. S. Navy Band Chamber Ensembles. 2 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8682. FREE.

17 Bandyopadhyay presents Indian Dance. 7:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets TBA.

18 Heart of Maryland Chorus. 3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Visit www.heartofmarylandchorus.org to purchase tickets.

19 Rockville Concert Band: "Music From Around the World." 3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8681. FREE, no tickets required.

19 Elena Caldine presents a Piano Recital. 7:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$18 adults, \$15 seniors, \$12 students.

DECEMBER

2,3,9,10 Rockville Civic Ballet: Ballet. 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 2 and 9; 2 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 10. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8690. "The Nutcracker." Tickets: \$12 adults; \$8 children (12 and under); \$8 seniors (60 and older).

3-31 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: Rockville Art League. Varied media, juried show. Opening reception: Dec. 3, 1-4 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660. FREE.

3 Holiday Open House. 1-4 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660. *Concerts and tour of historic Glenview Mansion's holiday decorations.* FREE.

10 Holiday Open House. 1-4 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660. FREE.

17 Children's Holiday Open House. 1-4 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660. *Features special visits from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.* FREE.

17 Rockville Concert Band: Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8681. FREE, no tickets required.

17 Rockville Community Chorus: Holiday Concert. 7:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8682. FREE, no tickets required.

Rockville Civic Ballet presents

The Nutcracker

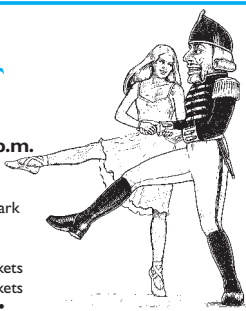
Claudia Mangan, Director

SATURDAYS, DEC. 2 & 9, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAYS, DEC. 3 & 10, 2 p.m.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at Rockville Civic Center Park
Adults \$12 • Children (12 years and under) \$8
Senior Citizens (60 years and older) \$8

Group Rates: \$11.50 each for seven or more adult tickets
\$7.50 each for 10 or more children/senior citizens tickets

• Assigned-seat tickets on sale beginning Nov. 7 •



CALL 240-314-8690 FOR TICKETS

ROCKVILLE ARTS HOTLINE: 240-314-5006

Call any time for recorded information on contact numbers and general program information. Discover concerts, gallery exhibits, special events, theatre performances, musicals, dance productions, art classes and other arts offerings in Rockville. Directions to Rockville Civic Center Park: 240-314-5004

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD THEATRE BOX OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday through Saturday (2-7 p.m.) and two hours prior to performance time. Location: Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690

Theatre patrons may purchase tickets in person, by phone or by mail order. To purchase tickets by mail order, include your name, address, phone number and the date and time of the performance for which you are purchasing tickets. If sending a check, make it payable to the City of Rockville. If using a credit card, include the type of card (MasterCard/Visa), the name on the card, account number and expiration date.